

School Music Bulletin – Issue 6

Strong learning happens through music

Students often say music makes schoolwork feel easier – and they're right.

That's not a coincidence; it's the brain showing just how powerful music learning really is. Learning music builds stronger learners, developing habits that help pupils focus, remember more, and meet challenges across every subject.

Top Tip: Daily Singing

“Daily Singing – Nursery rhymes, school songs, and seasonal songs (Harvest, Christmas, Spring, Summer) are powerful learning tools.

*Research shows that if children can learn 7–8 nursery rhymes by the age of five, it is a strong predictor of both **reading and writing ability**. Consider creating a **class songbook or classroom display** to support this further.”*

Sarah Todd, Lead Music at Woolenwick Infant & Junior Schools, is a strong advocate for equity in early music education. Her Primary Music Strategy continues to develop young musicians, with nearly **200 children under nine** reading music and playing single-reed instruments. Sarah is also a global ambassador for NUVO instruments and an experienced performer and fundraiser.

School-Authored Newsletter

We are pleased to be launching a **new termly newsletter written by schools, for schools**. This will be a shared space for schools across Hertfordshire to **celebrate practice, share ideas, and showcase the impact of music learning** in their own settings.

Hertfordshire schools are invited to submit short articles, case studies, reflections, or examples of practice they would like to share with colleagues. Contributions might include curriculum developments, ensemble projects, cross-curricular work, pupil voice, performances, or research-informed approaches.

We warmly invite schools to submit **any articles they would like considered for publication** in the **first edition**.

 **Submission deadline: 2 March 2026**

We look forward to amplifying school voices and learning from one another through this new collaborative platform.

Literacy & Music Research Programme – Now Launched

We are delighted to share that our **Literacy and Music Research Programme**, developed in collaboration with **Dr Anita Collins** is now underway. The programme explores how structured music learning can support **early reading, language development, memory, and wider learning behaviours**, drawing on current neuroscience and classroom practice.

Over the coming months, pupils and staff will take part in carefully designed musical activities that align with everyday classroom practice. Insights from this work will help shape future support for schools and strengthen how music contributes to literacy and learning across Hertfordshire.

Updates and key findings will be shared through future bulletins.

Lead Schools for Music – Support Available

Would you like to:

- Ask a question
- Arrange a face-to-face or online meeting
- Schedule a phone call
- Organise a school visit

You can connect with one of our **Lead Schools for Music** by completing the request form below. The Lead School will contact you directly to arrange next steps.

 **Lead School Contact Form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4>

Upcoming Events & Networks

SEND Music Networking

 **4 February | 3:45–4:45pm | Online**

Hosted by **Matthew Dear & Rebecca Starling**

This session supports colleagues working in SEND settings or inclusive music-making. We're pleased to welcome **Adrian Price (Soundbeam)** for a live online demonstration.

Booking link:  <https://forms.office.com/e/E1ACkxjgnQ>

Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music

 **11 February | 3:30–4:30pm | Online**

Hosted by **Grace Hawksbee**

Designed for primary teachers leading music alongside other subjects. Expect:

- Practical ideas and resources
- Confidence-building strategies
- Peer networking and shared problem-solving

Booking link:  <https://forms.office.com/e/GRDKFX2v8g>

Early Years Music Network

 **24 February | 4:00–5:00pm | Online**

Hosted by **Sarah Todd & Tom Robinson**

This session focuses on how music supports **language development, phonological awareness, memory, and early communication**, closely aligning with the Literacy & Music Research Programme.

🔗 Booking link: <https://forms.office.com/e/CPmPY9R7vj>

Royal Ballet & Opera – *Create and Sing* CPD Day

📍 Thursday 23 April 2026 | Woolenwick Infant & Nursery School

A **FREE, full-day certified CPD** opportunity for KS1–KS2 teachers and Music Leads.

No prior experience of singing or opera required.

Includes:

- Full-day in-person CPD
- Five-lesson classroom schemes
- Termly digital live lessons with Royal Ballet dancers

🔗 Booking link:

<https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/primary-sing-hertfordshire-spring-26>

Stay Connected

You can book time to meet with our **Head of Participation & School Music, Christina Luchies**, using Bookings or contact directly:

✉ christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

📅 Book a meeting: <https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/...>

Follow **@hertsmusic** on:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- YouTube

Spring 2026 CPD & Networking Events

We warmly invite all music educators across Hertfordshire to take part in any of our sessions. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish, and there is no limit on the number of staff members from your school who may join—everyone is encouraged to get involved.

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Topic	Booking Link
4 Feb	3:45 - 4:45 PM	SEND Music Network	Online	Joint schools' concerts planning, Sound Sensations Update	SEND Music Network (2) – Fill in form
11 Feb	3.30-4.30pm	Primary Network	Online	Networking opportunity for Generalist primary teacher leading music	Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form

24 Feb	4:00 - 5:00 PM	EYFS Music Network	Online	Musical skills & language development	Early Years Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network Mid, South and West	Online	GCSE and KS4/5 Composition and moderation The future of A-Level Music	Mid, South and West Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network East	Online	Boys engagement with music	East Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
17 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network East	Haileybury Turnford School	Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing	East Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
18 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network North	The Priory School	Baseline continuation & starting ensembles	North Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
26 Mar	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	SEND Joint Music CPD	SouthField School	Music for Regulation in Mainstream and SEN settings	School Music CPD - SEND – Fill in form

Partners

HFL Foundation subject leaders

We have a comprehensive range of subject leader webinars and courses. Whether you are new to leading a subject or would like a refresher CPD opportunity, there is a webinar for you! All sessions are live online, with a recording available afterwards to everyone who booked.

[Leading Primary Music across your school](#) - Tuesday 10th March 2026, 1-3pm

Charanga News

[YuStudio@](#), Charanga's browser-based digital audio workstation (DAW), has been upgraded with exciting new features to inspire the next generation of music creators. [Log in to Music Pro today](#) to explore them.

With more young creatives than ever using the software, we've enhanced YuStudio with a new interface, fresh sounds, Artist Packs, an expanded loop and FX library, automated key transposition, and more.

A series of video tutorials and projects will help you and your students get the most from everything on offer – whether that's recording an accompaniment, mastering a composition or anything in between.

See what's new [Watch the video](#) below from Max Wheeler, Charanga's Head of Music Technology, for a comprehensive overview of the upgraded DAW.

Coming soon: YuStudio for mobile



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